

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 CU-02 DHA-02 NSC-05 COME-00 /078 W

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R 021611Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6071

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3419

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, VT
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH VATICAN ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: STATE 029999

1. AMBASSADOR LODGE'S ASSISTANT CALLED ON VATICAN DEPUTY FORMIN SILVESTRINI MARCH 2 TO DISCUSS RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AS PER REFTEL. VATICAN OFFICIAL WAS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN OUR OBSERVATIONS AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PERIODIC USG BRIEFINGS ON SUBJECT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO HOLY SEE'S EXPERIENCE ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, MSGR SILVESTRINI CONTRIBUTED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS. GENERALLY, HE SAID, VATICAN IN POST-HELSINKI PERIOD HAS NOTICED MORE FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO TRAVEL OF RELIGIOUS PERSONS TO AND FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS, AND SOME RELAXATION IN ENTRY PROCEDURES FOR IMPORTS OF RELIGIOUS MATERIALS. IN FORMER CONNECTION, HE CITED FACT THAT GROUPS OF PILGRIMS AND PRIESTS FROM ALL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE PERMITTED TO COME TO ROME FOR HOLY YEAR CELEBRATION AND THAT HUNGARY, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD PERMITTED PRIESTS FROM ROME TO VISIT FAMILIES IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND USSR (LITHUANIA) HAD PERMITTED ENTRY OF FAIRLY LARGE QUANTITIES OF RELIGIOUS MATERIALS.

3. MSGR SILVESTRINI ALSO ATTRIBUTED BREAKTHROUGHS IN HUNGARIAN (RECENT NOMINATION OF PRIMATE) AND BULGARIAN (NAMING OF THREE BISHOPS IN AUGUST 1975) RELATIONS TO HELSINKI SPIRIT. HE COMMENTED FURTHER THAT HELSINKI SPIRIT MAY BE FACTOR OPERATING ON MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON PART OF EAST GERMANS AND CZECHS. (THE CZECH AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED MEETING THIS WEEK WITH VATICAN FORMIN CASAROLI AND VATICAN SURMISES THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WISHES TO CONVEY GOC DESIRE FOR RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL TALKS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES.)

4. VATICAN EXPERIENCE, USSR IS DRAGGING FEET ON CSCE BASKET III IMPLEMENTATION SINCE ITS ONLY GESTURE SO FAR HAS BEEN AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT RELIGIOUS MATERIALS INTO LITHUANIA. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY COMPLIANCE, NONALIGNED NATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME03419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760079-1025
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603104/aaaadnlg.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 29999
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS WITH VATICAN ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION
TAGS: PFOR, US, VT, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006